

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY **SECRET** REPORT NO [REDACTED]**INFORMATION REPORT**

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Population and Labor Policies/
Educational Data

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1. The average number of children in families among middle and upper classes is about two; among urban worker classes - three to four; among rural, farm worker classes - five to six. Among all urban classes it is considered a major hardship to have children. Contraceptive devices are of poor quality and abortion is illegal, generally the higher the social class, the greater the capability for avoiding births, whether by devices or abortion. In the rural population not only is there less capability for avoiding births, but greater readiness to accept them - "no other pleasures."
2. Even before World War II there were some six to seven million excess females in the Soviet Union, and the war increased this excess. Extra-marital child-birth is quite common. The government provides 100 rubles per month for such children, but there is still substantial social prejudice against the practice. Most unmarried mothers have only one child.
3. Even today in rural areas, males constitute only a small proportion of the total population. I would guess that rural males of all ages amount to about 25% of the total rural population.
4. Though the "basic mass", that is a majority, of the total population is still rural, I am convinced that there are many more couples of child bearing age in urban than in rural areas, and more children are being born into urban than rural populations. Yet, paradoxically, most army recruits still come from the rural population.
5. The urban working class is kept up by draft from other sources, while the farm population renews itself only through local births. All young people in agriculture attempt to leave and join the urban worker class. Even food is more scarce on the farms than in non-agricultural labor groups, and work on the farms is heavier. All soldiers who have received technical training, at the close of their enlistment attempt to secure travel orders to some city rather than to their homes on farms.

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6. In general there is a shortage of labor throughout the Soviet Union. The situation is very tight and a majority of women work - "practically all who are capable". But wives of the highest classes of civilians and most military wives do not work and even have servants.
7. It is common for upper class civilians to hold more than one position, that is, to work much longer hours in order to gain more. This might also indicate a shortage of personnel qualified for upper class jobs.
8. The mechanization of agriculture is relative. The situation is better now than during World War II but it is "nonsense" to talk of mechanization as adequate. Draft animals still are more important and reliable than tractors and the men and women do back-breaking work.
9. The overall educational situation is deteriorating. Recruits, on the average, have had five years of schooling, that is, have finished the fifth grade, and the majority, who are from the rural areas, have less education than those from urban areas. About 10% of the recruits entering the Army have some knowledge of mechanical matters, e.g., have driven trucks, tractors, etc., and the Army gives three years training in mechanical fields to specialists. I don't believe that the low general level of education is a detriment in respect to the provision of military specialists, since the military specialist training courses given enlisted men make a significant contribution to civilian industries as these men leave the military service.
10. Regular Army officer candidates are supposed to have had eight to ten grades of schooling prior to the four year course in the Military Academy. But these requirements may be waived. About half of the Regular Army officer candidates are ex-enlisted men. A non-commissioned officer with a good record may be accepted with only five to six grades of schooling.

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